Higher borrowings on account of relaxation of fiscal deficit target for 2009-10 will enable states to commit funds for capital expenditure, which will help in accelerating the growth revival in the medium term.

New ground handling policy

465. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the proposed new ground handling policy;

(b) the details of international standards of ground handling services;

(c) how the proposed policy is different from the existing policy;

(d) whether there is any opposition of this proposal from service providers, including the Air India;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) how Government is planning to address the concerns of the stakeholders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) (General Management, Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulation, 2007 were notified on 18.10.2007 in respect of airports managed by AAI and *vide* A/C No. 7/2007 dated 28.09.2007 by Directorate General of Civil Aviation for other airports. The following entities are eligible to undertake ground handling at -

(A) All metropolitan airports *i.e.* Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad-

(i) The respective airport operator itself or its joint venture partner.

(ii) National Aviation Company of India Ltd. and its subsidiaries/joint venture companies specialized in ground handling services. Third party handling will also be permitted to these subsidiaries.

(iii) Any other ground handling service selected through competitive bidding by the airport operator.

(B) At all other airports, in addition to the entities mentioned above, self handling is also permitted to the airlines excluding foreign airlines.

(C) Airlines or entities presently involved in ground handling, which are not covered under the policy, enunciated in (A) and / or (B) above will not be permitted to undertake self-handling or third party handling with effect from 01.01.2010.

(b) The available details of international standards of Ground Handling Services are as under:

European Commission - Freedom of self handling which applies to any airports regardless of its volume of traffic. However, for the following four categories of ground handling services Member States may reserve the right to self-handle to no fewer than two airport users at airports with more than one million passenger movements or 25,000 tonnes of freight per annum:- baggage handling; ramp handling; fuel and oil handling; and freight and mail handling.

United Kingdom - Restrictions, if any, can only be imposed with the approval of British Civil Aviation Authority (BCAA). Airports can apply to the CAA for the number of suppliers or self-handlers to be limited.

United States - There is not much of a separate ground handling industry in the US; it is nearly all airline self-handling and some airport-provided services. There are few places where airlines are not permitted to self-handle.

Asia- Ground Handling servies are provided by two companies; Singapore Airport Terminal Services and Changi International Airport Services.

Australia - The principal suppliers of services in Australia are the two major Australian carriers, AnSett Australia and Qantas Airways.

(c) Salient features of existing Ground Handling Policy are enumerated at (a) above.

(d) to (f) The Airline operators had expressed their concerns about the new Ground Handling Policy. The matter was examined by the Government and it was decided that the exit of non-entitled entities including domestic airlines will be implemented only after undertaking a comprehensive review and with inter-ministerial consultation.

Efforts to get information from Swiss banks

†466. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made efforts to receive information from Government of Switzerland regarding money deposited by Indian Citizens in the banks of Switzerland;

(b) if so, the efforts so made and when such efforts were made; and

(c) the estimates made by Government regarding quantum of money deposited with Swiss banks by Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Efforts have been made from time to time to seek such information under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Swiss Confederation. However, the Swiss Federal Tax Administration has expressed its inability to exchange the information regarding bank deposits of Indian residents as the information was not necessary for the application of the DTAA between India and Swiss Confederation but was required only for the enforcement of Indian internal laws. They also replied that such information was not at their disposal under Swiss laws in the normal course of tax administration.

Further, in connection with the investigation of specific cases. Directorate of Enforcement, if deemed necessary seeks information from foreign jurisdiction in respect of accounts held by Indian Nationals/entities in banks located overseas. However, no roving enquiries are made.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.